

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 4, 7, 9, 11, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22-35 and 37-42 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment and Response to Office Action. Claims 4, 7, 9, 11, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22-24, 31, 35 37-40, and 43-45 are currently under examination. Claims 5, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 21, and 43-45 have been canceled, and claims 25-30, 32-34, and 41-42 remain withdrawn. Claims 4, 35, and 38 have been indicated as allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7, 9, 11, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22-24, 31, 37, 39-40, and 43-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention. Specifically, the Office states that claim 7 is indefinite because the claim recites “said method comprising operating an intact living cell containing said receptors and the G-protein biosensor of claim 4,” and it is not clear what this step does, and how a screening method works without indicating the step of contacting the cell with the candidate agonists and antagonists. Further, the Office states that claim 9 is indefinite because it is not clear how to determine the signal transduction activity in a live mammalian cell system. In addition, the Office states that claim 11, as well as claims 13 and 14 that depend therefrom, are indefinite because it does not recite the step of contact with a candidate molecule nor indicate how the comparison of the FRET profile in the presence and absence of added candidate molecules would identify a candidate therapeutic drug molecule. The Office also states that claims 15, 17, 19-20, 22-24, 37, 39, 40, and 43-45 are indefinite because the claims lack essential steps in the claimed methods.

Applicants have amended claims 7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 19, 37, 39, and 40 to address these rejections and have cancelled claims 43-45. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all claims now under examination in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested. Applicant does not believe any fees are due in connection with this Response; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 01-2384 in the name of ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

/Erin M. Florek/

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